



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/586,433	11/26/2008	Matthias Prinz	N81818LPK	5606
1333 7590 06/22/2010 EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY PATENT LEGAL STAFF 343 STATE STREET ROCHESTER, NY 14650-2201			EXAMINER MORRISON, THOMAS A	
			ART UNIT 3653	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/22/2010	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/586,433

**Applicant(s)**

PRINZ, MATTHIAS

**Examiner**

THOMAS A. MORRISON

**Art Unit**

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/12/2010 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 and its dependent claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: (1) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 12 that allows the duplex-printing mode to be set; (2) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 12 that allows the paper jam to be detected; and (3) the structure or structural relationship between the recited

elements in claim 12 that allows the completion of duplex-printing mode to be determined. The language in claim 12 does not specify which element or elements perform the claimed functions. Accordingly, it is unclear what arrangement is claimed in claim 12 and its dependent claims.

Claim 13 and its dependent claim 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: (1) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 13 that allows the simplex-printing mode to be set; (2) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 13 that allows the completion of duplex-printing to be determined; (3) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 13 that allows duplex-printing to be determined; (4) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 13 that allows the completion of printing on a first side to be determined; and (5) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 13 that allows the incomplete printing on a second side to be determined. The language in claim 13 does not specify which element or elements perform the claimed functions. Accordingly, it is unclear what arrangement is claimed in claim 13 and its dependent claim.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such

omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: (1) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 14 that allows the duplex-printing to be determined; and (2) the structure or structural relationship between the recited elements in claim 14 that allows the completion of printing on one side of print media to be determined. The language in claim 14 does not specify which element or elements perform the claimed functions. Accordingly, it is unclear what arrangement is claimed in claim 14.

Claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: (1) the omitted step of determining when duplex-printing is complete in claim 16; (2) the omitted step of determining when only one side of the print media has been printed in claim 16; (3) the omitted step of determining whether the printer is in a duplex-printing mode in claim 16; and (4) the omitted step of determining whether only one side of a print media has been printed in claim 16.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 12-14 and 16-17, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,550,762 (Stoll) (hereinafter "Stoll").

Regarding claim 12, Figs. 1-3 show a printer (Fig. 1) for printing on a print media having at least duplex printing, the printer (Fig. 1) comprising:

(a) a transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A) for transporting the print media for printing;

(b) a first switch (14a) for directing the print media through a first exit (exit to the right of element 14A) or for permitting the print media to continue on the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17); wherein when the printer is in duplex-printing mode and a paper jam is detected (via sensor 101A), the first switch (14A) transports the print media in which duplex-printing is complete out of the first exit (i.e., exit located to the right of element 14A) and the print media in which only one side of the print media has been printed continues through the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17);

(c) a flap (18A) for transporting the print media through a second exit (19A) or permitting the print media to continue on the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A); wherein when the printer is in duplex-printing mode and a paper jam is detected (via

101A), the flap (18A) passes the print media in which only one side of the print media has been printed out of the second exit (19A); and

(d) a flipping arrangement (including 14B, 15B, 16B, 18B and 19B) disposed down stream of the flap (18A) for flipping the print media for permitting printing on a second side of the printer.

Regarding claim 13, Figs. 1-3 show that the first switch (14A) exits the print media out of the first exit (exit to the right of element 14A) when in simplex-printing mode or when duplex-printing is complete or continues transporting the print media through the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A) when in duplex-printing and printing on a first side is complete and printing on a second side is incomplete.

Regarding claim 14, Figs. 1-3 show that second switch (18A) receives the print media in which, when in duplex-printing, one side of the print media has been printed and is continuing for printing on the second side.

Regarding claim 16, Figs. 1-3 disclose a method for printing on a printing material, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a paper jam (via element 101A) in a transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A);

(b) transporting the print media through a first exit (exit to the right of element 14A) or continuing to transport the print media on the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A); wherein when the printer is in duplex-printing mode and a paper jam is detected (via element 101A), transporting the print media in which duplex-printing is complete out of the first exit (exit to the right of element 14A) and the print media in

which only one side of the print media has been printed continues through the transport path (including 13, 14A and 17A);

(c) transporting the print media through a second exit (19A) or continuing to transport the print media on the transport path (including 13, 15A and 17A); wherein when the printer is in duplex-printing mode and a paper jam is detected (via element 101A), transporting the print media in which only one side of the print media has been printed out of the second exit (19A); and

(d) providing a flipping arrangement (including 14B, 15B, 18B, 17B and 19B) disposed down stream of the second exit (19A) for flipping the print media for permitting printing on a second side of the printer.

Regarding claim 17, Figs. 1-3 disclose the step of providing a flap (18A) for performing step (c).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoll as applied to claims 12 and 17 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,777 (Carter) (hereinafter "Carter"). Stoll discloses a flap (18A) that is actuated to divert sheets to one of multiple routes, but Stoll does not explicitly disclose that a solenoid is used to actuate such flap, as claimed in claims 15 and 18.



Carter discloses that it is well known in the art to provide a printer (column 1, line 9) with a flap (including 100) arrangement that is operated by a solenoid to divert sheets to one of multiple routes. See, e.g., col. 5, lines 29-31. Because both Carter and Stoll teach flaps (18A and 100, respectively) for diverting sheets to one of multiple routes, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute a flap arrangement that is actuated by a solenoid for the flap arrangement of Stoll to achieve the predictable result of diverting sheets to one of multiple routes. Thus, all of the limitations of claims 15 and 18 are met by the cited combination of references.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS A. MORRISON whose telephone number is (571)272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saul Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-7097. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Saúl J. Rodríguez/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 3652

6/17/2010